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(54) **Horse rug.**

(57) The invention relates to a horse blanket (2), comprising a blanket manufactured from flexible material, the form of which is substantially adapted to the form of the horse, comprising substantially symmetrical fixation means (3) connected with the blanket (2) and exerting a substantially forward force on the blanket, whereby the fixation means are formed by a girth (3) connected by to the horse blanket, running under the neck of the horse and being guided along the shoulder blades of the horse, the ends of which girth (3) extend to the rear substantially symmetrically.

It is to be noted here that during walking of the horse, the horse blanket (2) itself, that is, without the fixation means (3), is generally subjected to a rearward directed force. This is caused by the hair direction of the coat of the horse, whereby the hair generally extends to the rear and whereby, during movements of the diverse parts of the body of the horse, a rearward directed force is exerted on the horse blanket (2).

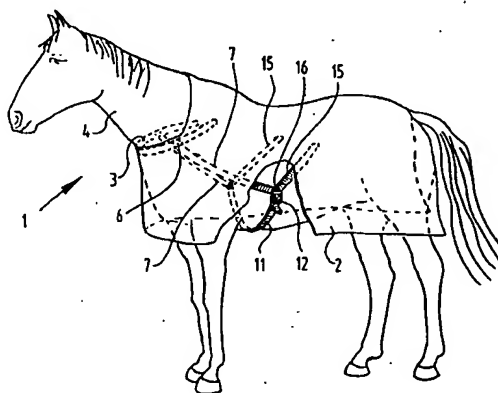


FIG. 5

EP 0 595 423 A1

The invention relates to a horse blanket comprising a blanket manufactured from flexible material, the form of which is substantially adapted to the form of the horse, comprising substantially symmetrical fixation means connected with the blanket and exerting a substantially forward force on the blanket.

Such horse blankets are known from US-A-5,125,220.

This document shows horse blankets wherein a breast girth or band extends along the front part of the horse under the bottom of the neck of the horse. These girths are not however directly connected to the horse blanket.

When the horse walks, the shoulder joints move close to the front legs, which movement is transmitted to the blanket so that a force is hereby exerted on the horse blanket alternatingly on the left and the right, so that the horse blanket is pulled out of position and good fixing of the horse blanket on the animal does not take place because a symmetrical force is not applied to the horse blanket.

The same is otherwise true of horse blankets also known which are fixed by means of girths trained round the stomach. The danger of being pulled askew is considerable here.

The object of the invention is to provide a horse blanket wherein the above stated drawbacks are obviated.

This object is achieved in that the fixation means are formed by a girth connected by to the horse blanket, running under the neck of the horse and being guided along the shoulder blades of the horse, the ends of which girth extend to the rear substantially symmetrically.

It should be noted here that during walking of the horse, the horse blanket itself, that is, without the fixation means, is generally subjected to a rearward directed force. This is caused by the hair direction of the coat of the horse, whereby the hair generally extends to the rear and whereby, during movements of the diverse parts of the body of the horse, a rearward directed force is exerted on the horse blanket. These forces are well withstood by the fixation which takes place on the front part of the horse by means of the substantially symmetrical fixation means connected to the horse blanket and running over the underside of the neck of the horse.

According to a first preferred embodiment the girths are guided such to the rear, that the girth extend at either side of the withers.

According to a second embodiment the secondary girths connected to the horse blanket extend from the girth to the rear.

Understood by the word "girth" is not only a girth as in common usage, but also a strap or, when the girth extends along the horse blanket, also a hem or other form of strengthening of the material of the horse blanket. Also falling within the definition of

girths employed herein are girths provided with buckles and/or elastic pieces. Further, the action of the girth is substantially improved, when they are made of material that is less flexible than the material from which the horse blanket itself is made.

The invention will now be elucidated with reference to the annexed drawings, in which:

fig. 1 shows a perspective view of a horse with a horse blanket according to a first embodiment of the invention;

fig. 2 shows a partly broken away perspective view of a horse with a horse blanket according to a second embodiment of the invention;

fig. 3 is a perspective view of a horse with a horse blanket according to a third embodiment of the invention;

fig. 4 is a side view of a horse with the horse blanket depicted in fig. 1, wherein the horse is holding its head downward; and

fig. 5 is a perspective view of a horse with a horse blanket according to a fourth embodiment of the invention.

Shown in fig. 1 is a horse 1 which is wearing a horse blanket 2. The horse blanket 2 comprises a girth 3 which is guided on the front part of the horse along the underside of the neck 4 of the horse. The girth 3 extends therefrom to the rear on either side of the body of the horse, wherein the girth 3 is guided slightly upward, both girth halves extend along the withers 5 of the horse and meet behind the withers. From the point of contact both girths extend toward the rear over the back of the horse. It is of course possible for one of the girths to be omitted here so that only a single girth extends along the back of the horse.

Secondary girths 7 extend on either side from a position 6 at the side of the neck 4 of the horse. Both secondary girths 7 are connected to girth 3.

A length of soft, flexible material, for instance wool, jute or a plastic, is then connected to the girths in the usual manner so that the material forms the actual horse blanket 2. The material is herein connected to the girth and the secondary girths, for instance by stitching. In this embodiment it is, just as in the other embodiments, possible that the girths are connected to the horse blanket only at their ends.

When the horse walks, the shoulder joints 8 of the horse will, as can be seen in fig. 1, move forward alternatingly, which has no effect on the horse blanket because at this position the horse blanket is cut very loose fitting so that this movement is possible without obstructing the animal. The location at which the girth 3 rests on the front part of the horse is generally at rest, so that a good fixing of the girth 3 is obtained and thus also of the secondary girths 7 and the actual horse blanket. The girths 3 and 7 are pulled tight by the rearward directed force generally caused by the coat of the horse so that the danger of slipping

down is avoided.

In the embodiment shown in fig. 2, a filler piece 9 is arranged on the withers 5 of the horse.

This filler piece provides an additional fixation of the horse blanket on the horse. In preference the filler piece 9 is connected to the blanket by means of stitched seams.

Another difference from the embodiment shown in fig. 1 lies in the tertiary girths 15 extending obliquely upward and rearward. These extend initially at an angle of between 90° and 30°, preferably between 70° and 50°, and in particular roughly 60° to the horizontal. During the further progression of the tertiary girth the path is determined more by the bulging of the rib-cage of the horse. What is essential is that the ends of the girths are not connected to the back seam. These girths exert an additional force so that pulling askew of the blanket is prevented.

The embodiment shown in fig. 2 differs further in the fact that a stomach girth 11 is arranged which is closed by means of a buckle 12. This provides an extra fixation.

The embodiment depicted in fig. 3 is distinguished by the fact that the girth 3 is arranged intersecting, that is, the girth 3 crosses over itself behind the withers 5 of the horse and then extends downward in the original direction. Experience has shown that this exerts a compensating action in the case of possible small movements of the neck of the horse, so that pulling askew is prevented. The girth 3 is therefore connected at its end to the secondary girth 7.

In this embodiment a split 13 is arranged in the material of the horse blanket, which gives the shoulder joint sufficient clearance space.

Further, fig. 4 shows how the neck moves slightly downward when the head 14 of the horse is moved downward. A forwardly directed force is thus exerted on the horse blanket. This force pulls the blanket as a whole slightly forward, but this can be considered as a correction of the force exerted by the coat of the horse on the horse blanket.

The fourth embodiment of the horse blanket 2 shown in fig. 5 distinguishes by the measure that the secondary girths 7 have a limited length, and extend obliquely downwardly from the connection point 6. This appears to have a good effect on the fixation of the horse blanket 2 on horse 1, in which further the nuisance for the animal is as small as possible. To further enhance the fixation, tertiary girths 15 extend from the end of the secondary girths 7. These are equivalent to the tertiary girths 15 which have been depicted in fig. 2, although the location has been changed as a consequence of the fact that the primary girths 7 extend to the rear and downwardly. Also at the location 16, where the tertiary girths 15 are connected with the secondary girths 7, the girth 11 is connected with the help of a buckle 12.

Also in this embodiment the girths are provided

at the inner side of the horse blanket. It is also possible to provide the girths, for instance in the case of a multiply horse blanket, between several of those plies, so that the girths are incorporated within the horse blanket itself.

It is also possible to replace combinations of mutually connected girths or parts of girths by substantially triangular pieces of cloth, which are, just as the girths, produced from relatively inelastic material.

Claims

1. Horse blanket comprising a blanket manufactured from flexible material, the form of which is substantially adapted to the form of the horse, comprising substantially symmetrical fixation means connected with the blanket and exerting a substantially forward force on the blanket, **characterized in** that the fixation means are formed by a girth connected by to the horse blanket, running under the neck of the horse and being guided along the shoulder blades of the horse, the ends of which girth extend to the rear substantially symmetrically.
2. Horse blanket according to claim 1, **characterized in** that the girths extend on either side of the withers.
3. Horse blanket according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized in** that the secondary girths connected with the horse blanket extend rearwardly from the girth.
4. Horse blanket according to claim 3, **characterized in** that the secondary girths extend obliquely downward and rearward over the limited length.
5. Horse blanket according to claim 3 or 4, **characterized in** that tertiary girths extend from the secondary girths obliquely upward and backward over the bulging of the rib cage of the horse.
6. Horse blanket according to claim 5, **characterized in** that the tertiary girths at their upper sides on a distance from the back seam of the horse blanket.
7. Horse blanket according to one of the claims 4, 5 or 6, **characterized in** that a girth to be guided under the stomach of the horse is connectable to the connection point between the secondary girth and the tertiary girth.
8. Horse blanket according to one of the claims 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8, **characterized in** that the secondary

and tertiary girth extend under an angle with a value between 90° and 30°, preferably between 70° and 50°, and in particularly substantially 60° with the horizontal extent.

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9. Horse blanket according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized in** that the girths are at their ends only connected with the blanket.
10. Horse blanket according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized in** that the girths extend at the inner side of the blanket.
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11. Horse blanket according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized in** that the horse blanket comprises a number of plies, and that the girths have been provided between those plies.
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12. Horse blanket according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized in** that the girths are made of material which is less elastic than the material from which the horse blanket is made.

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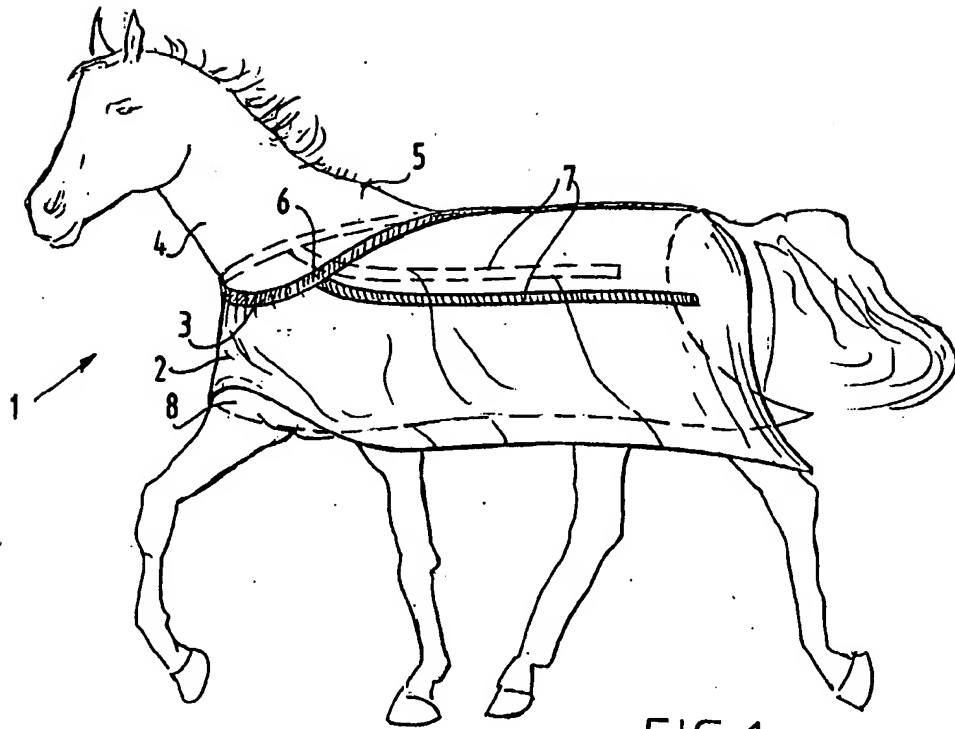


FIG.1

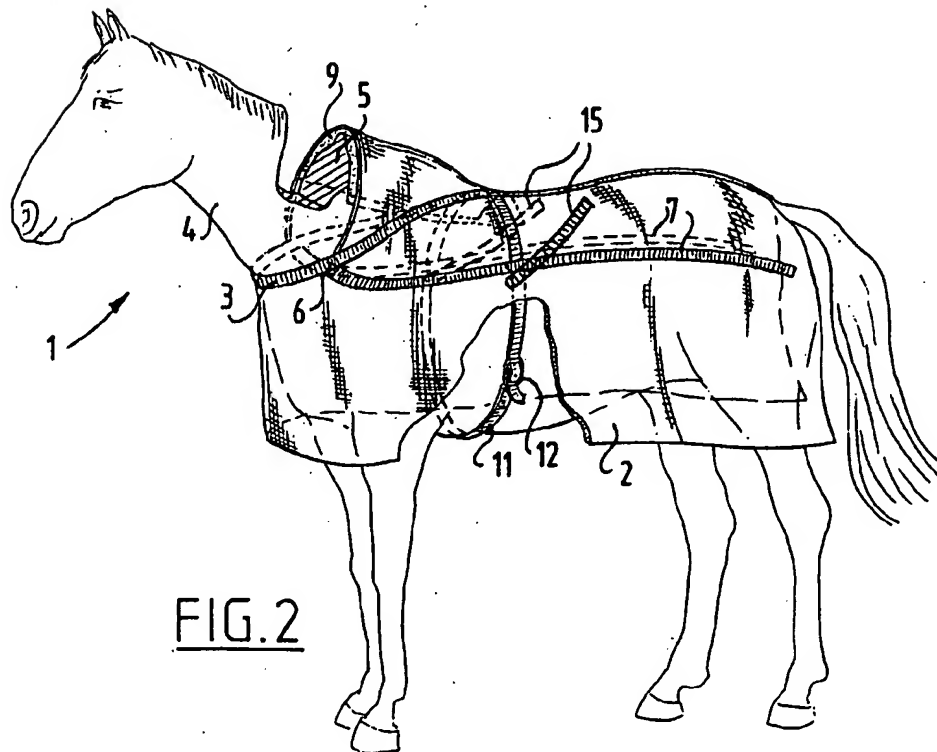


FIG.2

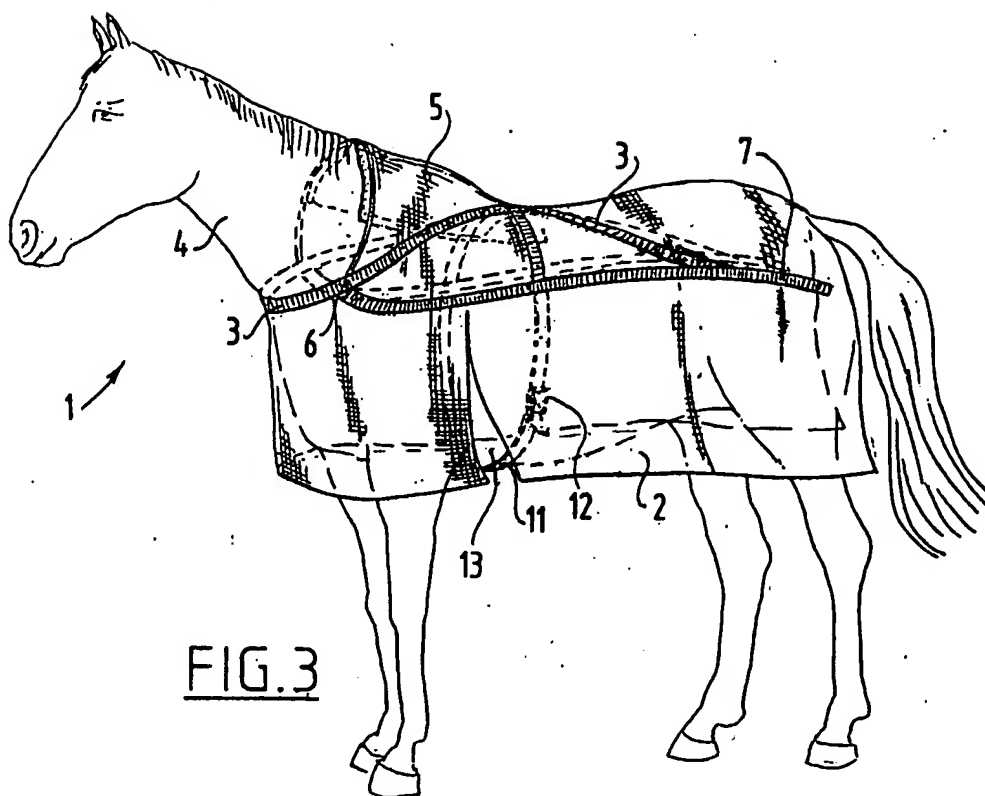


FIG. 3

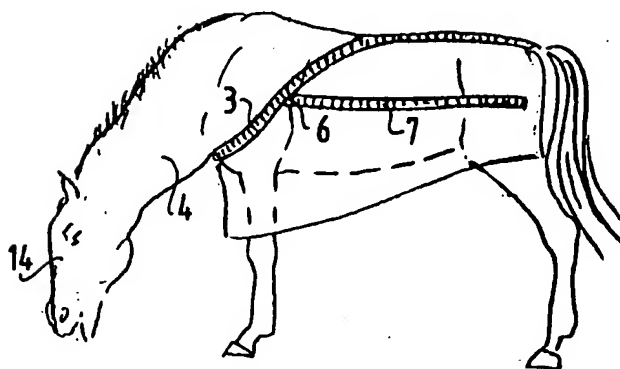


FIG. 4

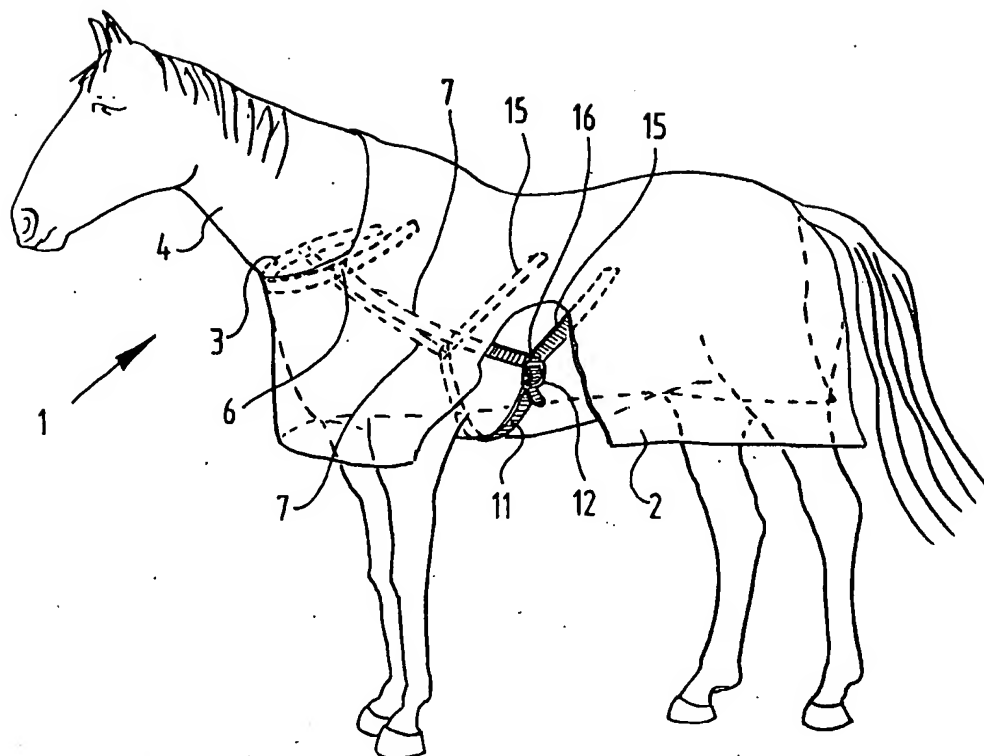


FIG. 5



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 93 20 2996

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.5)
X	AU-B-535 781 (SKEWES) * page 6, line 6 - line 26; figure 4 *	1	A01K13/00
X	US-A-4 214 421 (BATTLE) * column 3, line 45 - column 4, line 15; figure 1 *	1	
X	US-A-5 125 220 (MARTIN) * figures 1,2 *	1	
A	US-A-3 979 886 (JOHNSON)		
A	US-A-1 500 316 (HAMLIN)		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5) A22B A01K B68C
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 20 January 1994	Examiner von Arx, V
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : number of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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